



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

**ROMANIAN MAN ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY
ASSAULTING DISABLED 13-YEAR-OLD COUSIN**
Operation Predator arrests surpass 4,300 nationwide; 162 from Illinois

CHICAGO—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers arrested a Romanian man Friday who was convicted in 1996 of sexually assaulting a mentally disabled cousin he cared for while the girl's mother attended church.

Alexandru Moroz, 30, was arrested without incident at his apartment at 6245 N. California Street and remains in ICE custody until he can be deported to Romania.

Moroz's arrest is part of ICE's Operation Predator initiative, which has resulted in the arrest of more than 4,300 sexual predators nationwide since the operation started in July 2003. Of those arrested, 162 resided in Illinois.

Under immigration law, Moroz' conviction makes him an aggravated felon eligible for deportation. Moroz was first ordered deported in 1998, a decision he appealed. Moroz lost his final appeal in July and he failed to surrender to ICE in August as required. He had been a fugitive ever since.

Operation Predator's goal is to identify, arrest and detain sex offenders who prey on children, and remove those who are non-citizens to their countries of origin.

"Child predators and sex offenders prey on the weakest and most vulnerable people in our society," said Debbie Achim, ICE Chicago Detention and Removal Operations field office director.

"Operation Predator represents ICE's commitment to identify and remove such predators who are a public safety threat to Chicago communities."

Operation Predator protects children by investigating and presenting for prosecution pedophiles, Internet predators, human traffickers, international sex tourists and other predatory criminals. ICE has a toll-free number for the public to provide leads to its enforcement team on any violations, including tips about child pornography, child sex offenders and other preying on children.

The toll-free hotline is 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The line is monitored 24 hours a day. Information about Operation Predator is available at www.ice.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.